



Inside Ag

August 6, 2008

Proposed Fertilizer Rule Changes

The revised Colorado Commercial Fertilizer, Soil Conditioner and Plant Amendment Act was signed by Governor Ritter on May 29, 2008 and will go into effect August 6, 2008. The Colorado Department of Agriculture proposes the adoption of rules to address the changes in the law, which include requirements for the distribution of compost.

The following is a summary of the proposed rules:

- Adopt by reference the official terms for fertilizers and soil conditioners as listed in the 2008 Official Publication of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials
- Establish dates for the registration of fertilizer products and compost manufacturing facilities
- Establish the due date for distribution (tonnage) reports
- Establish minimum standards and labeling requirements for compost
- Establish the level of concentration of certain metals that would deem fertilizer to be adulterated
- Establish the level of concentration of certain metals and pathogens that would deem compost to be adulterated
- Update sampling and laboratory analysis methods for fertilizers
- Establish the laboratory analysis method for Iron Sulfate
- Establish sampling and laboratory analysis methods for compost
- Update rules and cleanup of outdated language

The time frame for this process is as follows:

- Draft rule submitted for publication - August 29, 2008
- Notice of rulemaking and proposed rule published by Secretary of State - September 10, 2008
- Rulemaking hearing - October 1-3, 2008
- Colorado Agricultural Commission Recommendation - October 14, 2008
- Final Rule effective - November 30, 2008

For more information, or to get a copy of the proposed rules, contact Pat Johnson at (303) 867-9205, or [click here](#). Please forward any comments to Ms. Johnson.